

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

----- 073260

R 270940Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 264

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4746

DEPT PASS USDOC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, BTIO, PK

SUBJ: PAKISTAN LIKELY NOT TO HOST ASIAN GAMES

REFERENCE: EMB MEMCON OF 20 MAY 75

1. WITHIN LAST TWO DAYS, TWO AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES HAVE INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GOP HAS TAKEN DECISION NOT TO HOST 1978 ASIAN GAMES. REASON GIVEN WAS COSTS WHICH WERE RECENTLY ESTIMATED TO BE \$125 MILLION EQUIVALENT.

2. FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, CONTROLLED PAK PRESS HAS HINTED THAT ALL WAS NOT WELL WITH THE GAMES. LATEST HINT CAME FROM PRC AMBASSADOR WHO TOLD PRESS MAY 26 THAT CHINA WILL GO AHEAD WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO CONSTRUCT A SPORTS COMPLEX IN ISLAMABAD EVEN IF A DECISION IS TAKEN NOT TO HOLD THE GAMES.

3 COMMENT: FROM OUR SOURCES, WE TEND TO BELIEVE PAKISTAN HAS BACKED OUT OF THE GAMES.

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DECISION PROBABLY TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK DURING MINISTERIAL

DELIBERATIONS ON NEXT YEAR'S GOP BUDGET. WE SUSPECT
DECISION WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED UNTIL AFTER GOP
NOTIFIES OTHER ASIAN GAMES MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE DECISION
NOT TO HOST GAMES WILL LIKELY HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON US
INTERESTS HERE. FROM RECENT CONVERSATION WITH GOP DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR EIGHTH ASIAN GAMES IN ISLAMABAD, EMBOFFS
GATHERED THERE WAS LITTLE SCOPE FOR POTENTIAL US COMMERCIAL
SALES OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT SINCE PAKS WERE APPARENTLY
PLANNING ON GETTING MOST OF THEIR IMPORTED EQUIPMENT FROM
PRC AND TIED (EASTERN EUROPEAN) SOURCES. FROM INTERNAL
ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT, DECISION TO CANCEL THIS PRESTIGE
PROJECT SHOULD FREE MORE RESOURCES FOR MORE ESSENTIAL
PROJECTS.
BYROADE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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